

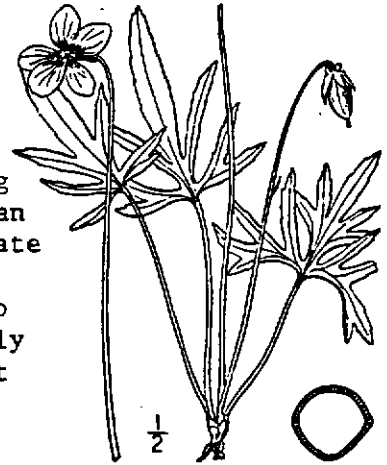
MASSACHUSETTS RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANTS

BRITTON'S VIOLET

(Viola brittoniana Pollard)

DESCRIPTION

Britton's Violet is a perennial herb with thick underground rhizomes and slender scapes (leafless flowering stems rising from the ground), 4-8" (10-20cm.) high and mostly longer than leaves. The leaf blades are reniform (kidney shaped) to ovate and are divided into 5-9 lobes. In variety pectinata, the blades are not deeply divided, but merely sharply toothed to pectinate (comb-like) along the margins. The plant is nearly all glabrous (smooth), but the leaves are minutely pubescent (hairy) above and on the margins. Britton's Violet flowers from mid-May-mid-June and has large, 1-1½" (2-3cm.), broad flowers that are rich violet with a prominent white throat.



Britton, W.L. and N.A. Brown. An Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada.
Dover Publications, Inc. 1970 reprint of 1913 ed.

HABITAT

In Massachusetts, Viola brittoniana inhabits moist, sandy soils of river meadows and upper borders of open floodplain woods, generally with the habitat subject to at least occasional flooding.

RANGE

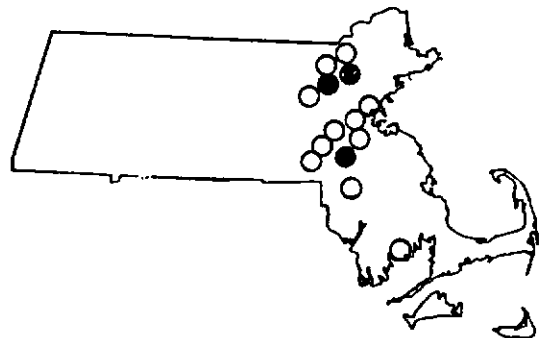
Britton's Violet ranges from southern Maine to North Carolina.

POPULATION STATUS

Britton's Violet is considered to be a "Threatened" species in Massachusetts. Historically (prior to 1978), there have been 14 documented occurrences; since 1978 there have been only 3 occurrences verified. Much of its habitat in the state has been altered by damming and diking of rivers and conversion of floodplain meadows to agriculture.



Distribution of Britton's Violet



● Verified since 1978
○ Reported prior to 1978

Distribution in Massachusetts by Town